

## **Social Action Meeting Minutes**

### **Monthly Zoom, September 10, 2025**

I. In attendance: Lynne Ross, Paget Berger, Alison Politziner Wilma Solomon, Pam Zaifman, Michele Alperin, Judy Leopold, Judy Wiener, Sally Steinberg, Ross Wishnick, Bob Karp, and Louise Sandburg

Despite technical issues we were still able to accomplish quite a bit.

II. We discussed the need to have more families involved and looked at ways to create opportunities for participation.

III. We'll continue to do monthly Drives/Collections

**Tentatively** slated:

September/October: High Holidays Food for JFCS and Arm in Arm

November/December: Coats and Warm Clothing for local Police drive and Refugees

January: Feminine products for the Period Project

February: Soup

March: Diapers and wipes

April: Chametz for Arm in Arm

May: Tee shirts and baseball caps, or possibly Toiletries

June: Books or toys for the Rescue Mission

V. Upcoming events:

September 28--**Reverse Tashlich**. Great Sustainability initiative.

October 5—**Potluck in the TJC Garden** after Sukkahs are built. 12 noon. RSVP to Wilma

October 8—**Pizza in the Hut**. Michael and Lori Feldstein will be speaking about the Jewish Abayudaya community of Uganda. **We need Social Action volunteers to come at 5:30 to help serve food**. Please RSVP to Lynne or Louise

October 19—**JFCS Meals for wheels**. Rabbi asked us to form TJC teams for the JFCS Bike event—Pam has the Superteam 2.0. And Lana Sambol has created TJCyclers. See Pam's note below

V. Looking ahead and discussing family projects for MLK Day of Chesed, the Sunday of MLK weekend.

Opening will be from 9:45-10:45 with Religious school students selling band-aids to repair the world highlighting projects for tzedakah. Then various stations and activities both at TJC and in the area.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports:

**Inter-faith Stitchers** are planning to meet: September 14, 2-4 pm at Nassau Presbyterian Church and October 12, 2-4 pm at the Islamic Society of Central Jersey. Judy will try to schedule them to meet 1-3 for our MLK Day of Chesed

Lynn reported for **Sara/PCH**: a birdhouse designed by Josh Zinder for the PCH Auction will be placed at TJC.

Alison and Louise: **Refugee Resettlement**: 1) Single mom with 7 year old moved into Princeton 8/15. Needs work—during school hours. And, yes, she's legal. 2) Save the date: November 19 for Annual I-RISE Refugee Walk-a-Thon. 2-4 pm in Highland Park. 3) We'll be tabling to raise both awareness and funds for local refugee families on a Sunday morning, date TBD.

Sally Steinberg has provided info re: **Gun Violence Prevention**—see below

VII. We're planning monthly Zoom meetings and our next meeting will be November 12 at 7:30 pm

**JFCS Wheels for Meals Bike Ride & Walk on Sunday, October 19th** – just weeks from now!!! This is a great opportunity for families, *young and old* to represent TJC at this important Jewish community event.

For the second year, there will be a "FUN WALK" through a pretty 2-mile path toward Mercer County Park. As the Walk Champion I'm spreading the word about this option to welcome even more community members. Proceeds from the event support the JFCS food & nutrition programs that collectively help feed more than 1,800 households EACH MONTH!

*I would love for you to participate, either to walk, or ride one of the many bike routes, or if you can't do either, choose to donate; any type of support makes a difference to the people nourished by JFCS.*

For the ways to join, click on: <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/jfcswheelsformeals2025/team/1002090/> On the very bottom of that page, please click one of the buttons to provide your support.

If you choose Register Now, you'll be asked How do you want to participate? Click on Adult Registration, then click on Join or Start a Team, scroll down and you'll find either my team's name "**Pam's Superteam 2.0**" or "**TJCyclers**".

Many thanks

Gun Violence Prevention Updates:

### **Trenton ordinance for gun storage**

There is more than one way to improve gun storage laws in NJ. If the state will not enact tougher laws we can go to townships and boroughs to have them enact tougher laws. Below is a link to the Trenton ordinance. While this is not everything we wanted, it is a step in the right direction. The Ordinance passed in May 2025.

<https://ecode360.com/TR0722/laws/LF2403229.pdf>

## **Gun Sense Candidates**

To see the candidates that have the Gun Sense Candidate Distinction from Everytown and Moms Demand Action, go to [www.gunsensevoter.org](http://www.gunsensevoter.org).

## **Suicide Prevention Actions**

Please publicize the 988 helpline on Social Media. You can copy the 988 image at the bottom of the page and paste this on Facebook or Instagram or make it your profile picture.

Below is a link to 30 actions anyone can take to prevent suicide.

<https://everytownsupportfund.org/daily-actions-raise-awareness-help-prevent-firearm-suicide-september-suicide-prevention-awareness-month>

For National Suicide Prevention Week, which is held each year during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, we released our [annual analysis of state-by-state suicide rates](#). Year after year, the analysis reveals that states with lower gun ownership and stronger gun laws have the lowest suicide rates. Conversely, the states with higher gun ownership and weaker gun laws have the highest suicide rates (see tables below).

To see where your state ranks, click [here](#).

In 2023, there were 49,316 suicides in the United States, of these 27,300 (55.4 percent) were firearm suicides. Together, these findings reveal how gun suicide drives overall suicide rates and make clear the fact that reducing access to firearms is a critical element in helping prevent suicide.